

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device mapped to a desired person among a plurality of devices present on a network, said device retrieving apparatus comprising:
a display unit having a screen;
an input unit that is used to externally input an instruction; and
~~a controlan application unit,~~
said ~~controlapplication~~ unit causing individual symbols corresponding to individuals and device symbols corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit,

 said ~~controlapplication~~ unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to map a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person, specifying an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the mapped individual symbol as a specific individual description, gaining access to a database that is present ~~on-in a server connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus~~, obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causing at least one of the obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

4. (Currently Amended) A device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, further comprising:

a communications path abstraction unit that removes a difference in control procedure due to a type of communications path, which connects said device retrieving apparatus with a device represented by the first device symbol, so as to provide said application unit with an identical control environment, which does not depend upon the type of said communications path,

wherein said application unit gaining access to the device via said communications path abstraction unit, and

control-said application unit, in the case where a device the device represented by the first device symbol keeps data, causescausing data symbols representing respective data kept in the device to be displayed in a specific area on the screen of said display unit, which is different from an area in which at least one of the obtained device description and the corresponding second device symbol is displayed.

5-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, wherein the mapping information includesincluding individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to the individual descriptions and device positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to devices to the device descriptions, and

said control-application unit specifiespecifying a position mapped to the specific individual description from the individual positions-related information, readsreading a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information, and obtainsobtaining the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description.

14. (Currently Amended) A device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 4, wherein the mapping information includes including individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to the individual descriptions and device positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to devices to the device descriptions, and

said control application unit specifies specifying a position mapped to the specific individual description from the individual positions-related information, reads reading a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information, and obtains obtaining the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description.

15. (Currently Amended) A device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, wherein said control application unit, when an individual description of the desired person is externally input as a specific individual description via said input unit, gains gaining access to a database that is present on the network or in said device retrieving apparatus in said server, obtains obtaining a device description mapped to the input specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causes causing at least one of the obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

16. A device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, wherein said control application unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to select a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person among the individual symbols displayed on the screen, specifies specifying an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the selected specific individual symbol as a specific individual description,

~~gainsgaining~~ access to a database that is present ~~on the network or in said device retrieving apparatusin said server, obtainsobtaining~~ a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and ~~causescausing~~ at least one of the obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device mapped to a desired person among a plurality of devices present on a network,
said device retrieving apparatus comprising:
a display unit having a screen;
an input unit that is used to externally input an instruction; and
a control unit,
said control unit causing individual symbols corresponding to individuals and device symbols corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit,
said control unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to map a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person, specifying an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the mapped individual symbol as a specific individual description, gaining access to a database that is present in an apparatus connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus, obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causing at least one of the

obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

22. (New) A device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, said control unit, in the case where a device represented by the first device symbol keeps data, causing data symbols representing respective data kept in the device to be displayed in a specific area on the screen of said display unit, which is different from an area in which at least one of the obtained device description and the corresponding second device symbol is displayed.

23. (New) A device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, the mapping information including individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to the individual descriptions and device positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to the device descriptions, and

said control unit specifying a position mapped to the specific individual description from the individual positions-related information, reading a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information, and obtaining the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description.

24. (New) A device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 22, the mapping information including individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to the individual descriptions and device positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to devices to the device descriptions, and

said control unit specifying a position mapped to the specific individual description from the individual positions-related information, reading a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information, and

obtaining the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description.

25. (New) A device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, said control unit, when an individual description of the desired person is externally input as a specific individual description via said input unit, gaining access to a database that is present in an apparatus connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus, obtaining a device description mapped to the input specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causing at least one of the obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

26. (New) A device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, said control unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to select a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person among the individual symbols displayed on the screen, specifying an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the selected specific individual symbol as a specific individual description, gaining access to a database that is present in an apparatus connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus, obtaining a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causing at least one of the obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.